

Lewis County Coroner's Office (LCCO)

RESERVE DEPUTY CORONER PROGRAM

Reserve Deputy Coroners are volunteers who aid/assist the Deputy Coroners in conducting medicolegal death investigations. Upon successful completion of the Reserve Deputy Coroner Academy the reserves ride along responding to death scene investigations and are utilized in the event of a mass fatality incident.

WORKING CONDITIONS:

Reserve Deputy Coroners work with exposure to dead bodies in various stages of decomposition, infectious and contagious diseases, noxious fumes and hazardous chemicals or materials. They work evenings, nights, weekends and holidays and also work in all weather conditions.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS FOR PROSPECTIVE APPLICANTS

Minimum requirements:

1. High school Diploma/GED
2. Must be 21 years or older.

Medical requirements:

1. Must provide medical clearance from a physician indicating no restrictions on physical requirements.
2. Must provide documentation of current tetanus/tuberculosis/Hepatitis B vaccine.

Background Investigation:

1. Candidates must have good work history.
2. Candidates must pass a criminal background check:
 - a. No felony convictions.
 - b. No theft or drug convictions.
 - c. No domestic violence convictions.
 - d. No DUI convictions within the past ten (10) years.
 - e. Misdemeanor convictions are not an automatic exclusion but will be examined in depth on an individual basis.
3. Candidates must provide two (2) letters of reference from non-relatives.

Interview process:

1. Must successfully complete oral board interview.
2. Must demonstrate a sincere interest in medicolegal death investigations versus mere curiosity.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS FOR PROSPECTIVE APPLICANTS

1. Proven ability in dealing with the public in stressful situations.
2. Demonstrate excellent oral and written communication skills.
3. Experience in performing investigations and crime scene processing.
4. Professional/educational experience in related fields.

RESERVE INVESTIGATOR TRAINING COMPONENTS

Classroom component: (8 weeks-one week night and Saturdays)

Training (not limited to):

- LCCO purpose
- LCCO Mission/vision
- Statutes
- LCCO administrative policies & procedures
- Medicolegal death investigations
- Death scene protocols
- Search and seizure
- Chain of custody
- Grieving families
- Death notifications

Examinations:

Trainees must pass a series of written examinations with a minimum score of 80%.

Trainees will be assessed during hands on exercises.

Field component: (6 weeks)

Trainees are assigned to Deputy Coroners for field training.

Trainees are required to write/submit reports for every shift that they field train.

Trainees will be evaluated by Field Training Officer (FTO).

Successful Completion:

Upon successful completion of the Reserve Deputy Academy:

A graduation ceremony will take place where family and friends can attend.

The students will be awarded a certificate of completion and sworn in as a Reserve Deputy Coroner.

The reserves will be eligible to participate in regular ride alongs with LCCO staff.

The reserves will be required to attend the monthly LCCO Deputy Coroner training.

The reserves will be placed on a call out list in the event of mass fatality incident.